

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A paper-pressing table lock mechanism of a stapler comprising:

- a table link rotatably provided in a base;
  - a paper-pressing table provided on the table link;
  - a movable clincher provided on a leading end of the paper-pressing table;
  - a fixing pin projecting on a side surface of the table link;
  - a fixing plate linearly slidable with respect to the fixing pin and engagable with the fixing pin to lock the table link in a paper-pressing state;
  - a driver that drives a staple to sheets of paper to be stapled pressed against the paper-pressing table;
  - a clincher link that is rotatably provided in the base so as to press the movable clincher of the table link in the paper-pressing state from an opposite side of the driver and that clinches each leg of the staple penetrating the sheets of paper to be stapled;
  - a clinch lever that presses the clincher link; and
  - a pressure reducing mechanism that temporarily reduces the pressure by the clinch lever with respect to the clincher link;
- wherein the table link and the fixing plate are separate members, and the table link and the fixing plate are relatively movable.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The paper-pressing table lock mechanism of a stapler according to claim 1, wherein the pressure reducing mechanism comprises a sector-shaped cam, and a periphery of the sector-shaped cam is engaged with the clinch lever,

the sector-shaped cam has a stepped portion formed on the periphery of the sector-shaped cam, and

when the clinch lever is engaged with the stepped portion, a pressure with respect to the clincher link is reduced.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The paper-pressing table lock mechanism of a stapler according to claim 2, wherein the sector-shaped cam comprises a first and second sector-shaped cams, the first and second sector-shaped cams have the same external feature, and the first and second sector-shaped cams are mounted on a common driving shaft so as to rotate at the same phase.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The paper-pressing table lock mechanism of a stapler according to claim 2, wherein the sector-shaped cam comprises a first and second sector-shaped cams,

the first and second sector-shaped cams have the same external feature,

the first and second sector-shaped cams are mounted on a common driving shaft, and

a phase of the first sector-shaped cam and a phase of the second sector-shaped cam are shifted.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The paper-pressing table lock mechanism of a stapler according to claim 2, wherein the sector-shaped cam comprises a first and second sector-shaped cams,

the first sector-shaped cam has a first stepped portion,

the second sector-shaped cam has a second stepped portion,

the first and second stepped portions are respectively formed in the first and second sector-shaped cams so that respective clinch levers are respectively engaged with the first and second stepped portions at shifted timing.